

Since this paper was in type and after two parts of it had been published, *Trichomanes Petersii* Gray has been found in Tennessee by members of the Department of Botany, University of Tennessee. A note by Mr. Aaron J. Sharp on the discovery of this rare fern appears on page 75 of this issue of the Fern Journal.

TRICHOMANES PETERSII Gray

Tremont, Blount County, at about 1,500 feet altitude, April 11, 1931, A. J. Sharp, H. M. Jennison, Harlow Bishop.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

A Glimpse of Iceland

HAROLD GODDARD RUGG

Two days only for the interesting island of Iceland gave little opportunity for botanizing there. Yet in that brief time I saw a good deal of the country outside Reykjavik, the capital. First, let me tell you that Iceland is larger than Ireland, or than our own state of Kentucky. Although the Gulf tempers the climate near Reykjavik, so that last winter there were only three or four days of skating, nevertheless about one tenth of the Island is covered perpetually by snow or ice. Considering the size of Iceland, the flora is rather limited. Only sixteen varieties and forms of ferns are found. As the list is small I will give it.

Ophioglossum vulgatum L. var. *polyphyllum* A. Br.

Botrychium lunaria (L.) Sw.

Botrychium lanceolatum (Gmel.) Angstr.

Cystopteris fragilis (L.) Bernh.

Woodsia ilvensis (L.) R. Br.

Dryopteris filix-mas (L.) Schott

Dryopteris filix-mas f. *subintegrum* Döll.

Dryopteris dilatata (Hoffm.) Gray

- Dryopteris lonchitis* (L.) Ktze.
Dryopteris pulchella (Salisb.) Hayek.
Dryopteris phegopteris (L.) Baumg.
Athyrium filix-femina (L.) Rth.
Athyrium alpestre (Hoppe) Ryl.
Polypodium vulgare L.
Blechnum spicant (L.) With.
Blechnum spicant var. *fallax* Lge.

This is the nomenclature which appears in Steffanson's "Flora Islands" published in Copenhagen in 1924.

At Thingvellir, about thirty miles from Reykjavik (the scene of the first Icelandic Parliament in 900), I hunted for ferns late in the evening. During the latter half of June, and all of July and August there is continuous daylight for the twenty-four hours of the day. Although I was rewarded with many flowering plants, the real heather (*Calluna*), forget-me-nots, wild thyme, thrift (*Armeria vulgaris*) and others, I found only one fern, *Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh, and only one plant of that.

My second day, with a party of Appalachians, I climbed Mt. Esja—2,500 feet in height—a mountain several miles distant from Reykjavik. Along the automobile highway I looked for ferns, but not a single one did I see. In many places the ground was covered with lava. In fact, one twelfth of the entire island is so covered. I might say here that in the two days I saw no trees of any sort. There are a few groves, so called, of stunted birches in two or three sections of the island, but that is all. On the grassy slopes near the foot of Esja I was rewarded with several plants of *Botrychium lunaria* (L.) Sw. and on the ledges near the top of the mountain a single plant of *Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh. Apparently Iceland is not a fern lover's paradise.

Then on to the North Cape—a huge rocky promontory rising 1,000 feet sheer above the sea. In only one place is ascent possible. Here a tiny rivulet falls down over the rocks. On either side of this is a narrow stretch of vegetation. In other places the rocks are bleak and barren of vegetation for the most part, except lichens. Along the stream or by the path near by I discovered:

Cystopteris fragilis (L.) Bernh.
Athyrium alpestre (Hoppe) Ryl.
Dryopteris lonchitis (L.) Ktze.
Phegopteris dryopteris (L.) Fée
Phegopteris polypodioides Fée

With the ferns were dwarf willows, wild geranium, grass of Parnassus, a beautiful light pink dianthus, trollius, bunchberry, *Silene acaulis*, and buttercups.

In other sections of Norway I found an abundance of *Athyrium filix-femina* (L.) Rth., also *Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott, and in the mountains above Bergen, *Blechnum spicant* (L.) With. growing under evergreen trees.

At Innsbruck in the Austrian Tyrol, there was continuous rain so that I could not get up in the mountains for botanizing. At Freiburg in Germany I had the same experience except that one day I did go out in the pouring rain on the Feldburg and found magnificent specimens of *Athyrium alpestre* (Hoppe) Ryl., one of the handsomest ferns I have ever seen. Motoring from Oberammergau to Munich I stopped a moment at the Castle of Neuschwanstein. Going up through the woods to the Castle I found *Thelypteris Robertiana* (Hoffm.) Slosson in abundance, many of the fronds of which were twice as large as our common oak fern. On damp stone walls *Asplenium viride* Huds. was common.

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